(c) Apart from effective supervision of distribution arrangements by the oil companies and training of delivery boys/distributors, facilities like emergency service cells, freedom to change the distributor (in selected towns), liberalised issue of second cylinders are being extended to customers.

Duplicate LPG cylinders

1371. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindi edition of 'Hindustan' dated 8th January, 1987 wherein it has been stated that duplicate LPG cylinders are in circulation on a large scale in and around of Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of persons have been killed due to the bursting of duplicate LPG cylinders in the capital during the last two years; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the possibility of some apurious cylinders being in circulation cannot be ruled out, hardly any case of a cylinder having burst has been reported. The accidents reported are due to ignition of escaped LPG and are generally caused due to negligence or mishandling at the customers' premises of equipments like rubber hose, stove knob, LPG regulator etc.

(c) LPG cylinders are procured by the oil industry directly from a cylinder manufacturer only after he obtains the ISI certification. LPG is supplied to the customers in these cylinders owned by oil marketing companies. All cylinders are visually inspected at the bottling plants before each filling. The cylinders in use by the oil industry are subjected to statutory testing every five year. All the defective/spurious cylinders detected at manufacturers' end or at bottling plants are compressed and deshaped into flat sheets before being sold as scrap to ensure that they are not reintroduced in the market.

Pilfering/transferring LPG from cylinders

1372. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of gas racket of pilfering/transferring LPG from filled in cylinders to empty ones in capital on a large scale;

(b) how many such cases have been detected during the last three years, year-wise figures;

(c) how many cases government have taken penal action against the LPG distributors, year-wise figures;

(d) how many raids the oil corporation vigilance cell have conducted during the last three years with outcome thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to check this racket fully in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) During 1984, 1985 and 1986, respectively 4, 2 and 6 cases of pilferage/transfer of LPG from filled cylinders to empty ones by delivery boys of distributors were detected in the capital. Apart from termination of the services of those employees by the distributors, the respective oil companies issued letters of warning to the distributors concerned.